HUMAN SERVICES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 1998

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise in support of the bipartisan Community Opportunities and Educational Services Act, which reauthorizes and strengthens some of our most important programs to help needy families: Head Start, LIHEAP, and the Community Services Block Grant.

I am pleased that the Committee has chosen to drop counterproductive, controversial amendments that would have undermined the quality of Head Start programs, and instead has emphasized efforts to improve the quality of services the program offers. I am particularly pleased that the Early Head Start 0-3 program is being expanded, although I would urge the conferees to adopt the 0-3 setasides in the Senate bill. Recent scientific discoveries have highlighted the importance of the highest possible quality care in the early years of life. Under the Senate legislation, only one in every 25 eligible babies would be served by the Head Start program; the House bill provides \$185 million less over five years than the Senate-passed legislation.

I am also pleased that the Committee is reauthorizing the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which has assisted so many needy families in my home state of Connecticut and throughout the country. Too many seniors and families with children are forced to go without food or prescription drugs during the winters' coldest days because they do not have enough money to pay their heating bills and other necessities. And who can forget the deaths in the midwest last year caused by the heat. Seniors who owned air conditioners but were too afraid of the bills to turn them on suffered heat-related illnesses and even died simply because they didn't have the money to pay their energy bills. As we reauthorized the LIHEAP program at \$1.1 billion, I call on the House to reject the Labor-HHS appropriations bill which eliminates funding for LIHEAP for next year, and provide full funding for this important program.

The Community Services Block Grant also provides vital services to low income families, including child care, weatherization assistance, home delivery of meals to seniors, and other vital programs. This block grant, which is administered by community groups throughout the country, helps to create a safety net for our most vulnerable citizens.

I commend the Committee for its bipartisan legislation, and urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING ROSANN WISMAN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, the District of Columbia is fortunate to have many good people who dedicate their lives to improving the common good. One such person is Ms.

Rosann Wisman who, for the past 14 years has served as president and chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington. During Ms. Wisman's 23 years of experience in family planning management, she has built a local and national reputation for her commitment to the highest standards in reproductive health care.

Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington grew significantly during Ms. Wisman's tenure—both in number of people served and programs offered. Today, over 20,000 women, men, adolescents—more than three-quarters of whom are very poor with little or no access to other medical care—rely on this non-profit's seven family planning clinics. The three Planned Parenthood clinics in the District are located at 2811 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE; 2513 Alabama Avenue, SE; and 1108 16th Street, NW.

Ms. Wisman expanded clinical services to include abortion, the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV testing and counseling, and primary care. Today, Planned Parenthood, now in its 62 year, is the largest provider of family services to Washington area low-income women and the District's largest provider of first-trimester abortion services.

Since 1990, as a result of a bilingual outreach program spearheaded by Ms. Wisman, Planned Parenthood has also become a major provider of bilingual, culturally-sensitive family planning services to Latino women and families in Washington and the surrounding area. And, in 1992 under her leadership, Planned Parenthood established a partnership with African-American churches in the District to help reduce unplanned teen pregnancies. This partnership effort led to the opening of a Planned Parenthood family planning clinic at the Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church in Southeast Washington.

Rosann Wisman's commitment to access to reproductive health care services springs from her belief that every child should be a wanted child. Toward that goal, Ms. Wisman advocates freedom of choice—that no woman should be pressured to continue a pregnancy against her will by the government, religion or society. Ms. Wisman has testified frequently on allowing the District of Columbia the freedom to use its local revenue to fund abortions for the city's poor women, and on other birth control and reproductive rights issues before Congressional and local legislative committees.

Throughout Ms. Wisman's 14 years of leadership at Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, she has helped demonstrate that access to family planing medical services and birth control education reduces the need for abortion, lower infant and maternal deaths, and combats the cycle of poverty and teen childbearing.

Rosann is leaving Washington to move with her family to Japan. It is with special pride that I salute Rosann Wisman and wish her farewell. She will be missed. PAYING TRIBUTE TO SISTER ALICE ANNE LANE

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Sister Alice Ann Lane, who will be celebrating her 70th Jubilee as a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Sister Alice Ann has devoted 57 of her 86 years to guiding and educating America's youth. She taught in lowa for 32 years, before sharing her knowledge and wisdom with the children in Northwest Chicago for 25 years. Today, even in her retirement, this vibrant and loving woman dedicates her time to volunteering for the Department of Aging and tutoring students in need of her help.

In a time when education is at the forefront of Congress' agenda, Sister Alice Ann provides what we as legislators already know—that a strong education, including dedicated teachers like Sister Alice Ann, is the cornerstone of a strong democracy and a strong America.

On behalf of the constituents of the 5th district of Illinois, I would like to thank Sister Alice Ann for her devotion and commitment to teaching, to helping others and to touching the lives of so many.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELO R. MUSTO JR.

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of East Boston's most beloved and dedicated public servants. Angelo R. Musto Jr., who died on July 4, 1998, left an inspiring legacy of bettering the lives of all he knew throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In more than eight decades on earth, there was no arena of community life neglected by Angelo Musto. Politics, social services, business development, youth programs—wherever there was a need, Angelo filled it. In his professional career, Angelo demonstrated the same spirit of selfless service, particularly in steering troubled youngsters towards a brighter future.

He began his career in the depths of the Great Depression with the National Youth Administration. He later became a counselor with the East Boston Camps and joined the Goodwill House in Jeffries Point, eventually rising to executive director in charge of a wide array of social, educational, and recreational services.

In recognition of his expertise, the late Governor John A. Volpe made Angelo a special assistant in the Boston Municipal Court in 1957 and later appointed him to the Massachusetts Advisory Committee on Corrections to help the criminal justice system mend broken lives more effectively. He was later appointed to the Suffolk County Courthouse Commission. In 1965, Angelo was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Probations and 13 years later rose to become First Deputy Commissioner.